
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 324

AN ACT CONCERNING DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND AGING PROGRAMS.

SUMMARY:

This bill repeals a provision that prohibits the Department of Social Services (DSS) from paying an acute care general hospital for a dually eligible (Medicare and Medicaid) patient's administratively necessary days (ANDs) unless Medicare does not reimburse the hospital for the days. ANDs are the days during which a patient remains in an acute care hospital, even though he or she no longer needs that level of care, while the hospital finds an appropriate placement.

The bill also allows DSS, in certain circumstances, to set lower rates than currently allowed by law for residential care homes (RCHs) and nursing homes.

Finally, the bill makes several minor and technical changes, including changes to conform (1) with the establishment of the Department on Aging and (2) a law regarding DSS' regulation adoption procedure to current practice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except for a provision that makes technical changes, which is effective July 1, 2014, and the provision pertaining to acute care payments, which is effective on October 1, 2014.

FALL PREVENTION PROGRAM OVERSIGHT AND DEPARTMENT ON AGING

A 2013 law transferred oversight of DSS' Fall Prevention Program to the Department on Aging (PA 13-125). The bill makes conforming changes. By law, the program must promote and support fall prevention research; oversee research and demonstration projects; and establish, in consultation with the DPH commissioner, a professional

education program on fall prevention for healthcare providers.

The bill also makes technical changes to reflect the fact that the DSS commissioner still administers and conducts investigations for the Protective Services for the Elderly Program.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/11/2014)